SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, a clarification is required from the Chair. If what the hon. Minister is saying is true, then that point has to be taken cognisance of and necessary amendments to the rules for accepting a question will have to be made. But so long as such an amendment is not there, some kind of a reply has to be there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall find out from the Secretariat how this question was accepted if it is relating to the Budget, and when the Budget is going to be placed before the House, before the Parliament, such a questions should not have been accepted. I will make an enquiry and come back to the House and let you know.

(Q. No. 6-Hon. Member absent)

*6.[*The questioner (Shri Anil Sharma) was absent for answer vide pages* 26-27.]

Tourism policy for the hills

*7. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourist traffic has come down during the last three years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have any hill tourism policy keeping in view the attraction of enchanting mountains in the country;

(c) if not, what action is contemplated to promote tourism, pilgrimage, adventure and environmental aspects on mountains;

(d) what are the plans to develop Hill Stations of India to attract more foreign tourists; and

(e) the details of financial assistance given to States during the last three years for the development of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Foreign tourist arrivals during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 are 2.65 million, 2.54 million and 2.36 million respectively.

has been decline in tourist arrivals in 2001 and 2002 but a revival trend has set in from October 2002 onwards with growth rates of 16.8%, 16.2% and 10.4% in October, November and December 2002 respectively.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism has policy for development, expansion and promotion of tourism. The policy lays emphasis on development of eco-tourism, mountain tourism and adventure tourism.

(d) Development of Hill Stations is primarily the responsibility of State Governments in which these are located. However, the Central Government has identified at least one tourism hub in each State and six tourism circuits for integrated development. These include hill stations, mountains and caves also.

(e) Amount released to the State Governments for tourism projects in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 so far is as follows:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	4041
2001-02	2856
2002-03	5232

श्री ललित भाई मेहता: मंत्री जी, आपने उत्तर में बताया कि अक्टूबर 2002 से प्रवासी संख्या में बढ़ोत्तरी हो रही है। उसमें 16.8, 16.2 और 10.4 परसेंट की बढ़ोतरी हुई है, ऐसा आपने बताया है। लेकिन यह किससे रिलेट करता है, कौन से फिगर से रिलेट करता है, यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो रहा है। मेरी जानकारी यह है कि अप्रैल से सितम्बर, 2002 तक हमारे देश में विदेशी प्रवासियों की संख्या सिर्फ 9 लाख ही रही और पिछले तीन साल नहीं बल्कि पिछले पांच साल के आंकड़े अगर हम देखें तो विश्व के प्रवासन उद्योग में जो हमारा हिस्सा है, वह कांस्टेंटली 0.39 परसेंट ही रहा है। उसमें कोई बढ़ोतरी नहीं हुई है। विश्व के प्रवासियों के द्वारा पर्यटन से जो आय होती है उसमें हमारा हिस्सा पांच साल लगातार .66 परसेंट ही रहा है तो प्रवासन उद्योग द्वारा हमारे यहां विदेशी प्रवासियों की आय में बढ़ोतरी हो, हमारी कुल आय में बढ़ोतरी हो, इसके लिए आपके मंत्रालय द्वारा कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं? मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब चीन का प्रवासन उद्योग ग्यारह हजार चार सौ करोड़ डालर का टर्नओवर करता है हमारे देश में जहां पर इतनी प्राकृतिक सुविधाएं हैं, इतने प्राकृतिक साधन हैं, संसाधन हैं, यात्राओं के स्थल हैं तो यह 2300 करोड़ डालर तक सीमित क्यों है?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Madam, there are two parts of the question. One is the turndown. Everybody knows that after the September 11 incident, there was a downfall in the tourism all over the world. But after October, we have now changed the trend. In October, as compared to last October, there has been an increase of 16.8 per cent. Similarly, as compared to last November, there has been an increase of 16.2 per cent, and, then again, there has been another increase. In the month of January, as compared to the month of January of last year, the increase is about 22 per cent. So, in terms of number as well as in terms of earnings, there is now an upward trend.

As regards the question why, during the last ten or fifteen years, the share of India in the world tourism has remained as low as .39 per cent, I think, the previous Governments had to answer that, but we are doing our best to now increase the tempo of tourism, and I am quite confident that with the new measures that we have taken, the setting up of all cultural-cum-tourism hubs and six tourism circuits all over the country—at least one in every big State is being done and the results are very obvious—there has been a tremendous increase in the domestic tourism. There was an increase of about 24 per cent, in one year, in the domestic tourism. So, there has been an upward trend. The hon. Member has mentioned about China. Undoubtedly, China has made a tremendous increase. In this respect, we all have to understand why China has increased its tourism. One of the main reasons is that it is a highly disciplined society. But in our case, we must admit that all our tourist monuments are not kept clean; all types of slums, all types of stalls, all types of things come around, and whenever any action is taken, there is a problem. Everybody knows that. That is why, I think, under the new policy, we are emphasizing—and during the last one year, our measures have shown the results—that in almost all the areas we have taken special care of cleanliness. Ultimately, tourism is a civilisational issue; it all depends upon our value system, how we treat the people. How the *taxiwallahs* cheat the tourists, how the policemen cheat the people, how the customs men cheat the people, we are trying to look into all those aspects, and, I am sure, we will be able to show better results than the ones that have been there before.

12.00 Noon

श्री ललितभाई मेहता: महोदया, मंत्री जी ने यह बताया है कि 11 सितम्बर के बाद यह कमी आई है? लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि थाईलैंड, मलेशिया, सिंगापुर और इंडोनेशिया जैसे छोटे-छोटे देशों पर यह असर क्यों नहीं हुआ? वहां पर विदेशी प्रवासियों और पर्यटकों का उद्योग क्यों बढ़ा? हमारे यहां कोई ऐसी खामी है, ऐसी कोई कमी है जिसके कारण प्रवासी नहीं आ रहे हैं?

उपसभापति: एक मिनट, उनको जवाब दे देने दीजिए। Only one minute is left.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Madam, I don't think that that is correct because in the case of South-East Asia, the decline in tourism has been much more than the decline in the case of India. Therefore, it is not factually correct that some countries are giving special concessions. They have lost in that connection. We have been more beneficial, of course. If you take the South-East Asian region as a whole, we have done much better than the South-East Asian countries, and also as compared to the world as a whole.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we have just three, four or five seconds left. Dr. Karan Singh, do you want to ask a question? ...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: There is a sharp decline in tourism because of flights not coming and leaving in time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. At least your question has been registered.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Tourism Project for Himachal Pradesh

*6. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned since 1998 for development of infrastructure of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when these projects are likely to be completed?